

Harborne Hill Allotment's Committee Meeting 25 Sept 2022

Present were – A Thomson (Chair), A.Garbutt (Hon Sec), T.Beach(Hon Tres), G.Adams, N.Amos, A.Chebil, J.Cherrington, B.Coles, P.Jackson, T.Wright. Apologies were received from S.Coote and J.Smith.

Minutes of the last meeting were approved.

Secretary's report - Since our last meeting the fire extinguishers have been checked and two men came and checked the taps and the lavatories, I was told that it was to do with Legionnaire's Disease risk, photographs of all are taps were taken and they said that they would be back in 2 years' time. Hedges along Kingscote Road and Yateley Road have been cut and grills on the Chad Brook are regularly cleared. Rent taking has started, more are now paying by Bank Transfer which saves us handling a lot of cash. Plots 12B, 58b, 101b and 104 have given up their tenancies. Alex on plot 95 is returning to Birmingham from working in Berlin and hopes to get her plot back into shape. Enquiries still come in from people seeking plots. 4 plots have been brought back into use in the last 8 weeks. Badgers are believed to have also been at work, rooting around eating carrots, male human urine and diesel have been suggested as deterrents. Ivy is now 89, a card was sent to her. Bryan Roberts, plot 69A is on the way to recovery, he slipped at a Commonwealth Games event and injured his knee, he does not expect to be back until the New Year. Mr Finnegan delivered a load of muck yesterday, £130 a load, split between 4. The BBC contacted the Allotment Office with a view to filming on our Site for "Doctors". The Constitution has been amended so that our AGMs are in April each year.

Treasurer's Report – Very few transactions since our last meeting, the moneys from BCC for maintenance and collecting the rents for this year have been received.

Shop - the shop is well stocked including canes and Japanese Onions, there has been a drop off of use of non-organic fertilisers. Potato orders are being taken.

Allotment rents – details of the rents for next year were circulated, it was queried why the rent go up in line with RPI instead of CPI. The RPI is invariably higher than CPI, the figures for August 2022 were RPI 12.35% and CPI 9.9%. This has been taken up with BDAC, how did we let BCC get away with this?

Water – usage continues at a high rate but there is no evidence of leaks

Trees - any fall of large branches are reported to the local Tree officer, in the case of the branch on the bench, it is off a Lime Tree and Lime Trees do tend to drop branches. The next tree survey of the whole site is next year, a survey should be carried out every 3 years.

Management Agreement – the last Agreement was until 2019, the BDAC put proposals for a new agreement to the Parks Dept a few months back, further meetings are planned for next month.

The Committee – Alistair Thomson has agreed to be Chairman until the next AGM in April of next year, and the Secretary wishes to step down at that meeting.

Next meeting – Sunday 4th December 2022